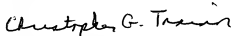


**REMARKS**

Claims 20-32 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, the specification has been amended to correct a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of an earlier filed application. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher G. Trainor  
Reg. No. 39,517  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

**CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT, LLP**  
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 225  
Melville, New York 11747  
(631) 501-5700  
(631) 501-3526 (fax)  
CGT:sf

**CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:**

Chief Patent Counsel  
U.S. Surgical, a Division of  
Tyco Healthcare Group LP  
150 Glover Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06856  
Telephone: (203) 845-4489  
Facsimile: (203) 845-4266